

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 05693 01 OF 03 231356Z

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 NSCE-00 IO-06 SP-02
L-01 INR-05 INRE-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 PRS-01 DHA-02
PM-03 DODE-00 SSO-00 /047 W
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O P 231237Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5189

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 COPENHAGEN 5693

LIMDIS

USUN FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG FROM AMBASSADOR DEAN

DEPT FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE FROM AMBASSADOR DEAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK, US, DA

SUBJECT: MUGABE VISIT TO COPENHAGEN AND HIS REACTION TO UK-US

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PAGE 02 COPENH 05693 01 OF 03 231356Z

RHODESIAN PLAN

REF: COPENHAGEN 5309 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: DANES RECEIVED MUGABE FOR BRIEF VISIT

AND FOUND HIM TO BE MORE FLEXIBLE AND CONSTRUCTIVE THAN THEY HAD
EXPECTED. MUGABE SEEMED WILLING TO NEGOTIATE ON BASIS OF UK-US

PROPOSALS BUT WANTS A LARGER ROLE FOR PATRIOTIC FRONT IN TRANS-
ITION PERIOD. DANES TOLD MUGABE THAT THEY THOUGH UK-US PROPOSALS
WERE LAST CHANCE FOR PEACEFUL SOLUTION AND PATRIOTIC FRONT SHOULD
SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY. FONMIN K.B. ANDERSEN FLIES TO NEW YORK
SEPT 24 AND WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR FURTHER TALKS ON MUGABE VISIT.
END SUMMARY.

1. MFA POL DIRECTOR OLE BIERRING CALLED ME TO MFA LAST NIGHT (SEPT
22) FOR BRIEFING ON MUGABE VISIT. I WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DCM. MUGABE
CAME TO COPENHAGEN WITH: M.M. MUDZI, "SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL RELAT-
IONS"& R.A. GUMBO, "SECRETARY FOR INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY";
I. MUZENDA; AND C. GARANOWAKO.

2. THE GROUP MET FOR AN HOUR AND A HALF WITH A TEAM OF DANISH
OFFICIALS LED BY AMBASSADOR BIERRING AFTER WHICH MUGABE HAD A BRIEF
PRIVATE SESSION WITH FONMIN ANDERSEN, FOLLOWED BY A LUNCH. THE
GROUP LEFT AT 1600 FOR DAR ES SALAAM VIA LONDON.

3. BEIRRING BEGAN BY GIVING US HIS PERSONAL IMPRESSION. HE CHAR-
ACTERIZED MUGABE AS "SOFT-SPOKEN AND INTELLIGENT" AND IN CONTRAST
TO WHAT THE DANES HAD EXPECTED, HE SEEMED TO HAVE VERY FEW IDEO-
LOGICAL HANG-UPS.

4. THE DANES STARTED RIGHT IN BY ASKING HOW MUGABE VIEWED THE IK-
US PROPOSAL. THE DANES TOLD MUGABE THAT THEY THOUGHT THESE WERE
FAIR PROPOSALS AND WOULD LEAD TO A FAVORABLE SOLUTION. MUGABE
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PAGE 03 COPENH 05693 01 OF 03 231356Z

REPLIED THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT ALSO WISHED A SOLUTION WHICH
WOULD INVOLVE AS LITTLE BLOODSHED AS POSSIBLE; HOWEVER, MUGABE

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PAGE 01 COPENH 05693 02 OF 03 231421Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 3 COPENHAGEN 5693

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DEPT FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE FROM AMBASSADOR DEAN

SAID THAT HE WAS HERE TO TELL HIS NORDIC FRIENDS THAT IF A PEACE-
FUL SOLUTION COULD NOT BE OBTAINED, THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS WOULD
HAVE TO RESORT TO ARMED CONFRONTATION.
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PAGE 02 COPENH 05693 02 OF 03 231421Z

5. MUGABE THEN OUTLINED THE HISTORY OF DEVELOPMENTS IN RHODESIA
SINCE 1966. HE SAID THAT HIS GROUP HAD ALWAYS PREFERRED NON-VIO-
LENCE BUT THAT SINCE THIS APPROACH HAD HAD NO AFFECT ON THE SMITH
REGIME, IT WAS FORCED TO RESORT TO ARMED STRUGGLE. AS PROOF THAT
HE SOUGHT A PEACEFUL SOLUTION MUGABE "HAD EVEN" TAKEN PART IN
THE GENEVA CONFERENCE.

6. COMING TO THE PROPOSAL ITSELF, MUGABE SAID HE PREFERRED TO CALL
IT "THE UK PLAN", SINCE THE UK WAS SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE
DECOLONIZATION OF RHODESIA. (HE REFERRED TO IT SUBSEQUENTLY AS "THE
UK PROPOSAL SUPPORTED BY THE US.") MUGABE SAID THERE WERE MANY
ASPECTS OF THE PLAN WHICH INDICATED THAT THE UK WAS MOVING IN THE
RIGHT DIRECTION. THESE INCLUDED; (A) UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE, (B) TOTAL
AND COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE, AND (C) IMMEDIATE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN
THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, AND UK AND THE "SETTLERS", THE TERM HE USED
FOR THE SMITH REGIME.

7. MUGABE WENT ON TO STRESS THAT HE WAS WILLING TO NEGOTIATE ON

THE BASIS OF THE IDEAS SET FORTH IN THE BRITISH PROPOSALS. HE INSISTED TO THE DANES THAT HE HAD NEVER TURNED DOWN THESE PROPOSALS AND THAT HE WOULD CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS WITH ALL PARTIES. HE SAID THAT EVEN THOUGH THE FRONT LEADERS HAD OBJECTIONS TO PARTS OF THE PLAN, THEY BELIEVED THAT THE PLAN COULD SERVE AS A BASIS FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS.

8. MUGABE'S PRIMARY OBJECTIONS TO THE PLAN WERE: (A) THE TRANSITIONAL PHASE DID NOT ALLOW THE FRONT ANY REAL POWER BUT ONLY THE OPPORTUNITY TO CAMPAIGN IN AN ELECTION; (B) THE UK WOULD HAVE EXCLUSIVE POWER OVER RHODESIA FOR THE SIX-MONTH TRANSITIONAL PERIOD; (C) LORD CARVER WOULD BE THE SUPREME COMMANDER, THE SOLE EXECUTIVE AND THE SOLE LEGISLATOR; AND (D) FINALLY, THAT CARVER WOULD TAKE OVER SMITH'S ARMY AND THERE WOULD BE NO ROLE TO PLAY FOR MEMBERS

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PAGE 03 COPENH 05693 02 OF 03 231421Z

OF THE FRONT DURING THIS CRITICAL SIX-MONTH PERIOD. MUGABE ALSO OBJECTED TO THE FACT THAT THE PRESENT LEGAL SYSTEM IN RHODESIA WOULD BE KEPT IN FORCE, INCLUDING ITS "OPPRESSIVE LAWS". MUGABE CONCEDED THAT THE PLAN CALLED FOR EVENTUAL CHANGES IN ALL OF RHODESIA'S LAWS BUT SAID THAT THESE CHANGES SHOULD BE MADE IMMEDIATELY AND NOT WAIT FOR INDEPENDENCE.

9. MUGABE AND THE DANES THEN DISCUSSED THE UN PEACEKEEPING ROLE, WHICH MUGABE CHARACTERIZED AS ONLY CAMOUFLAGE TO KEEP THE SMITH REGIME IN POWER LONGER. THE DANES ARGUED, HOWEVER, THAT A NEUTRAL GO-BETWEEN LIKE THE UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE WAS NECESSARY FOR THE PEACE

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FUL TRANSITION OF POWER TO AN ELECTED REGIME.

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PAGE 01 COPENH 05693 03 OF 03 231433Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 3 COPENHAGEN 5693

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10. THE DANES THEN ASKED MUGABE WHAT HE THOUGHT ABOUT THE UNSC PROPOSAL TO SELECT A UN REP TO WORK WITH LORD CARVER. (THE BRITISH HAD ASKED THE DANES TO ASK THIS QUESTION.) MUGABE REPLIED THAT
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 COPENH 05693 03 OF 03 231433Z

A UN APPOINTEE COULD NOT OPERATE IN RHODESIA UNTIL OTHER PARTS OF THE PLAN HAD ALSO BEEN APPROVED. THE DANES ARGUED THAT A UN REPRESENTATIVE WAS NEEDED DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD AS A THIRD ELEMENT IN THE SITUATION AND AS A MEDIATOR WHO COULD SEE THAT THE AGREEMENTS WERE HONESTLY CARRIED OUT. MUGABE'S REPLY TO THIS WAS THAT THE FRONT HAD NO REAL OBJECTION TO A UN REPRESENTATIVE SO LONG AS THE FRONT ITSELF COULD PALY A ROLE FROM THE "VERY BEGINNING".

11. THE DANES ASKED MUGABE'S OPINION ABOUT THE ZDF. MUGABE SAID THE FRONT HAD NO OBJECTION TO THE ZDF BUT THEY HAD NOT YET STUDIED THE PROPOSAL IN DETAIL. THEY WERE NOT HAPPY, HOWEVER, WITH THE "CAPITALIST" PHILOSOPHY BEHIND THE ZDF WHICH DID NOT SEEM TO COINCIDE WITH THEIR IDEOLOGICAL (MARXIST) CONCEPT OF THE FUTURE ZIMBABWIAN GOVERNMENT.

12. THE DANES WERE SURPRISED THAT MUGABE DID NOT SEEM TO BE AWARE OF ALL THE FEATURES OF THE UK-US PLANS, SO THEY OUTLINED TO HIM AND HIS GROUP ONCE AGAIN ITS HIGH POINTS AND ALSO SHOWED HIM THE COMMUNIQUE FROM THE RECENT MEETING IN HELSINKI, IN WHICH THE NORDIC

COUNTRIES INDICATED THEIR SUPPORT FOR A UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE.

13. BEIRRING THEN SUMMED UP THE DANISH IMPRESSIONS FOR US. THE DANES FELT THAT MUGABE WAS BASICALLY WILLING TO NEGOTIATE ON THE BASIS OF THE UK-US PROPOSALS BUT WOULD PUSH AS HARD AS POSSIBLE FOR A GREATER ROLE FOR THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. THE DANES REITERATED THAT THEY HAD TOLD MUGABE THAT THIS WAS THE LAST CHANCE FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION AND THAT HE SHOULD REALIZE THIS AND SHOW SOME FLEXIBILITY.

14. WE THEN HAD A FURTHER CONVERSATION WITH MFA DEPUTY POL DIRECTOR AMBASSADOR DYVIG, WHO HAD ATTENDED THE LUNCH. THERE AGAIN MUGABE HAD STRESSED HIS FEARS THAT DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD CARVER
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 COPENH 05693 03 OF 03 231433Z

WOULD MERELY CONTINUE THE SMITH REGIME UNDER ANOTHER NAME. DYVIG ADDED ONE MORE INTERESTING POINT. DURING THE LUNCH, FONMIN ANDERSEN TOLD MUGABE TO BE RESTRAINED IN TALKING TO THE PRESS, PARTICULARLY ABOUT THE UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE. HE TOLD MUGABE THAT THE NORDIC COUNTRIES HAD ALWAYS PARTICIPATED IN UN FORCES AND THAT ANY CRITICISM OF THIS PROPOSED UN FORCE BY MUGABE IN DENMARK WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. FORTUNATELY, DYVIG NOTED, THERE WAS LITTLE TIME FOR THE GROUP TO MEET THE PRESS AS THEY LEFT AT 1600 FOR LONDON, (MUGABE MET BRIEFLY WITH THE PRESS LATER - SEPTEL).

15. DYVIG ADDED A FINAL NOTE THAT MUGABE HAD ASKED THE DANES TO PAY FOR HIS TRIP FROM AFRICA TO NEW YORK FOR THE UNSC MEETING. MUGABE HAD ALSO ASKED NORWAY, SWEDEN AND DENMARK ALL TO PAY FOR HIS CURRENT TRIP, BUT ONLY THE SWEDES HAD ONE SO. THE DANES DODGED MUGABE'S LATEST REQUEST BY REFERRING IT TO THE DANISH FOREIGN AID AGENCY.

16. COMMENT: THE DANES WERE PLEASANTLY SURPRISED BY MUGABE'S APPARENT WILLINGNESS TO USE THE UK-US PROPOSAL AS BASIS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS, ESPECIALLY AFTER HIS STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS IN SWEDEN. THE DANES BELIEVE THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT IS PRIMARILY MANEUVERING FOR POSITION AND FOR A STRONGER ROLE DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD. I BELIEVE IT WAS CONSTRUCTIVE AND HELPFUL THAT THE DANES WERE ABLE TO TELL MUGABE THAT THE UK PROPOSALS REPRESENTED THE LAST GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION IN RHODESIA. FONMIN ANDERSEN AND AMBASSADOR BEIRRING ARE LEAVING FOR NEW YORK TOMORROW AND WILL BE AT THE UNGA ALL NEXT WEEK AND COULD DISCUSS THEIR IMPRESSIONS FURTHER AT THAT TIME.
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Message Attributes

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